

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "non-final" and dated October 9, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, all claims 1-20 have been amended so as to better highlight Applicants' proposed invention. (See amended claims 1-20 as set forth hereinabove.) In so amending claims 1-20, however, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly introduced into the present Application. Since no claims have been altogether cancelled and no entirely new claims have been added herein by Applicants, claims 1-20 thus remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended original paragraphs 0003, 0011, 0012, and 0013 in the written specification of the Application. (See amended paragraphs of the specification as set forth hereinabove.) In general, these paragraphs in the specification have largely been amended so as to merely correct punctuation, grammar, or spelling errors and also help improve overall textual clarity in the Application. Therefore, in making such amendments to the specification, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the specification be entered by Examiner.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by United States Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0222440, which was published for Otman A. Basir *et al.* on December 4, 2003 (hereinafter "Basir"). Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by United States Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0040858, which was published for Michael W. Wallace on February 27, 2003 ("Wallace").

In response, Applicants have herein amended claims 1-20 so as to better highlight subject matter that Applicants respectfully maintain is patentable over and above the Basir reference and/or the Wallace reference. (See amended claims 1-20 as set forth hereinabove.) Subject matter support for so amending claims 1-20 can be found, for example, in specification paragraphs 0024-0027 and 0038-0051 (see especially paragraphs 0025, 0038, and 0039) of the Application as originally filed and also in Figures 1-3. In view of amending claims 1-20 as such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

More particularly, in independent claims 1, 13, and 19 as amended hereinabove, Applicants now claim a method and/or system that is utile to calibrate "occupant classification sensors" onboard a vehicle. The method and/or system, as presently claimed by Applicants, generally includes "calibration device sensors" that are operable to generate "calibration signals" according to the "physical manipulations" of various "onboard calibration devices" as sensed by the calibration device sensors. Such physical manipulations of the onboard calibration devices can easily be manually performed, for example, by a service technician at a vehicle service center without the need of supplemental electronic equipment or specialized external calibration tools. If the physical manipulations of the onboard calibration devices are sensed by the calibration device sensors to occur in a "predetermined order" or sequence, a "controller" onboard the vehicle will then "initiate" calibration of the occupant classification sensors onboard the vehicle. In this way, therefore, full calibration of the occupant classification sensors can be both initiated and carried out by means of features and/or devices that are

already situated onboard the vehicle. (Applicants' Application, see specification paragraphs 0024-0027 and 0038-0051 and also Figures 1-3; and see especially specification paragraphs 0025, 0038, and 0039.)

In contrast to Applicants' presently claimed method and/or system, neither Basir nor Wallace teaches initiation of the onboard calibration of occupant classification sensors via physical manipulations of onboard calibration devices in a highly predetermined sequence. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

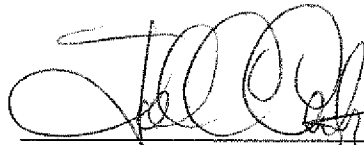
In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are both novel and non-obvious in view of Basir and/or Wallace and that the claims properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-20.

Also, together with this Amendment, a "Petition for an Extension of Time" (3 months) along with appropriate fee is being submitted. Receipt and entry thereof by Examiner is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Lastly, should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7200.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Artz', is written over a horizontal line.

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